

NYE TALKS A BIT

A Light and Cheerful Arithmetical Breakfast.

HIS USUAL WEEKLY CHAFF

The Combination of Music, Mathematics and Hygiene Explained by a Gentle Stranger.

EN ROUTE, EN PASHANT, EN GETTING A MOVE ON ONE VIA THE R. R.
We breakfasted this morning at Culpeper, Va., where fried chicken seems to be the motif, as we say in music, and all the other frills and little dashes of



color, frills, runs, arpeggios, and what Mr. Sedd so truly characterizes as funny business, are mere accessories of the fried chicken. It is good chicken, too, though sometimes cold, because it has to be prepared and on the table at the time when the train is due, even if the train should not be on time. This is a hazardous business, and a very slight hot box may mean acute cold chicken sometimes.

I have been told by my physician that I should be cheerful and enter into a lively conversation at mealtime to keep the mind bright and sunny if I want to be well and live longer than other people. Therefore you will notice that I often converse at table, and may be seen snoring my mind on pleasant days on the lawn, allowing it to run about sniffing the bright, crisp air while I keep a vigilant eye on the cat.

For this reason I opened a little bit of chaffy talk with a tall, thoughtful man on my left at table. He was a grave man, with long, copper-colored whiskers, which he buttoned inside his vest, so that when the robbins nest again they will have to go elsewhere. He had the air of a student of the old school. When I say that I mean one of the pallid students of the day when men studied so hard that their eyes often filled a chap's grave. The typical student of today is a young man with out of door tendencies and freckles on the back of his neck. He may not be able to translate the Songs of Solomon from the original, with words and music, at sight, but he hopes that he is the forerunner of a better race.

"I see that another great man has come out with the statement that he can no longer vote with his old party," I said, opening another roll and cutting the hot and steaming thing open with my knife in order to show that I felt no restraint, no matter where I might be placed.

"Ah," he said, "23, 30, 30—to whom do you refer—41, 33—may I ask?"
"To a large malt dealer in Philadelphia, who says that the McKinley bill is ruining the malt business—23, 34, 35, 30," I added, in order to show that I belonged to the same lodge, but really not knowing what he was driving at.

"Exactly; but—11, 12, 13, 14, 15—why does the McKinley bill have that effect on the—16, 17, 18, 19—malt business?" he asked as he swallowed his oatmeal and declined a glass of buttermilk on account of his mustache.

"By making the tariff on Canadian malt so high that it is prohibitory, thus compelling the dealer to depend upon the American barley, which is falling off, the American farmer refusing to raise it because under a Republican administration he finds that the sharp heads of the barley while being threshed work down his back—30, 21, 22, 23," I replied.

"Ah, yes—24, 25, 26, 27, 28—might I ask what your views are on the tariff—29, 30, 31, 32?"
"Certainly—33, 34, 35—if you will tell me what chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi you belong to, so that I may see if I am working in your degree or not—36, 37, 38, 39."

"Yes, yes; you refer, no doubt—9, 10, 11, 12—to my habit of enumeration and mastication."

"Yes, sir—13, 14, 15—if you please."

"Very well; then it is agreed—16, 17, 18."

"My notions, briefly, regarding the tariff are that the man who says he can tell you the ultimate effect upon the varied industries of this country, considering both employer and employee, and their future, not for two or four years, but for a generation, prevaricates. If either party can make votes by reciting isolated instances of great prosperity among manufacturers who have married wealthy wives and put the money into the business, or, on the other hand, the cases of manufacturers who have been compelled to shut up ostentatiously on account of the McKinley law, but really because they did not advertise, let them do so. I rode up from Atlanta with a man who wanted the duty of three dollars retained on peanuts, but aside from that wanted absolute free trade as soon as possible. We are as broad and liberal in our tariff views as we are in our religion. We forget that some constitutions require the heroic treatment, while others yield to gentler methods and the all powerful and all humanizing influences of love. We should not be too arbitrary one way or the other. A man

standing in the canyon of Conestoga's Rock lost the side of a barrel of wool necked cheese because of the quarantine which was instituted for the protection of sixty-five millions of lives, and he made quite a little war over it, creating a general panic in the country and great inconvenience to Mr. A. M. Palmer.

"We have no more right to measure the true account of the universe by

our little two dollar horizon than we have to establish a law that no man shall be admitted to the Authors' club who writes with his tongue out. We cannot all think alike, and that is the reason why we now and then run across an original thought expressed in an original way.

"If more people fancy that the present tariff arrangement is more beneficial to them than the other, more people will vote that way. If more people vote that way, and experiments should be made successfully with a purified ballot, the side so voting in the greatest numbers will elect their candidate. Then the horizon will clear up again, another prize fight will be brought to our notice, and the march of improvement will be once more resumed.

"And now if you will explain that method of enumeration to me, we may go on board our train."

"Yes, indeed," said the studious man as he carefully folded his napkin, thereby revealing the fact that he lived simply when at home, and that his wife attended to her own work. "You see, I have to be very careful about my health; otherwise I shall be taken from you before the great work of finishing my collection is done. I am making a very large and fine collection of *jeu de esprit*, so I must be very careful of my general health, for no one else could ever finish the collection. Many of them are my own. I put them in to give color to such men as Lamb. I am the mint sauce on Lamb, as you might say. I am the author of the maxim that the cucumber fights better when it is down.

"I read some time ago that Mr. Gladstone owed his long life to the fact that he used great care and method in masticating his food, counting the number of bites carefully, giving thirty-two, for instance, to steak, and from that down to two for ice cream. I have had to raise the rate on steak a good deal on this trip and lower it on tea. At home we have a very careful method of masticating, as has Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden, and a child who swallows his pie even without giving it the regular number of bites has to pay a penalty of twenty-five cents on our beautiful climate. It is very cheery to sit at our table and watch and listen to the conversation mingled with the enumeration.

"Sometimes we have a concert at table, and the counting is done to music. I lead on the violin. I have written an accompaniment for fried tripe which would please you, I know; but a little nocturne for shad, with half and three-quarter rests for taking out the bones. It is beautiful. The grapeskin polka is also very fetching, and a soup somnambula in flat is popular. My children are thus learning music, mathematics and hygiene."

With that he unbuttoned his coat so as to let his whiskers out for a few moments to surprise and delight the Virginia breeze. I decided that if Mr. Gladstone really has a sliding scale of enumeration like a child who is blinding in the game of "hide and go seek" he will wait many a long, weary day before he is invited to come and stay over Sunday at our house.

An Englishman got on at Greensboro. Evidently a Pullman sleeping car was a new thing to him. It probably just happened so accidentally, but one could see that he was not familiar with it. The berth were not yet made up, and it was clear that he could not figure out how one might sleep there three dollars' worth. He begged my pardon, but was this the sleeping car? I said that it was so regarded.

Then he did not say anything for quite awhile. Finally he begged pardon again and inquired if that car went through to New York. I said that from the talk I had with the railroad authorities I suspected that it would do so.

Just then the porter opened the berth of No. 9 in such a way as to squat the life out of a lady's new butterfly bonnet, and my friend saw at once that the car could be what is called metamorphosed in a moment. When his berth had been made up I saw him take his catchel and nothing of it till later on I was aroused from my brown study, which I was then at, by the entrance of a figure and the patter of bare feet along the aisle of the car. At first I thought the car was haunted, for I hardly recognized the Englishman, as he had removed his eye-

glasses and while taking his tub in the morning he held all of go what he thought of America. He was constantly interrupted by applause and by people who got on at Washington and who came into that end of the car, forgetting to close the door, thus calling forth on the surface of the

speaker a large crop of robust and highly appropriate goodfells.

Bill Nye

Making It Right.

There seems to be such a thing as being too kind. M. Calino, having taken a room on the fourth floor of a hotel, sent for a porter and had his trunks and bags carried up. The man then asked him for pay for the service. Calino is a very good hearted person. He felt in his pockets and exclaimed: "How unfortunate! I haven't a sou of change."

"That's too bad, sir," said the man, "for I shan't be here tomorrow, and so I shall lose my pay."

"Never!" said Calino, feelingly. "I never allow a service to go unremitted. You may carry the things back down stairs at once!"

And he insisted upon the unfortunate man's squaring the account by taking the trunks and boxes back to the place where he had got them.—Youth's Companion.

Deeply Absorbed.

"Marvelous man, this Professor Skinfrit; a giant among dwarfs."

Dr. Edison's FAMOUS PILLS AND BANDS AND OBESITY FRUIT SALT reduce your weight without dieting; cures the causes of obesity, such as dyspepsia, rheumatism, nervousness, catarrh, kidney troubles; keeps you healthy, and beautifies the complexion.

CHICAGO ISLAND OF TREASURE.

I again write you to say I have lost 13 pounds, making 42 pounds lost in 30 weeks by using 4 bottles of Dr. Edison's Obesity Pills and wearing his Obesity Band.

Very truly yours, CHARLES H. KNOX, Prof. H. H. Chicago University, Chicago, Ill. I send you a case in point. Under my advice Mr. Arnold used an Edison Obesity Band and 4 bottles of Pills, and lost 20 pounds in 4 weeks. Other patients have been equally successful.

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